

**Delaware Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee**  
**DRAFT Meeting Summary**  
**May 19, 2011**

**Materials Distributed:**

Agenda  
Draft summary of March meeting  
Public Recording Legal Opinion  
Video and Audiotaping Policy Information  
Draft Timeline to Workshop  
Draft Concept for October Workshop

SB64 on Flooding and Drainage

\*all materials distributed will be available online:

<http://www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov/coastal/Pages/DESLRAdvisoryCommittee.aspx>

**Key Discussion Points:**

*Old Business*

The draft summary of the March 15, 2011 meeting was approved as written.

*Request to Record Meeting*

Sarah Cooksey informed the committee that the Attorney General had responded to her request regarding videotaping of meetings. According to the opinion, the public is allowed to record all meetings, but rules can be set to ensure that the taping does not disrupt the business of the meeting.

Based on the Attorney General's opinion, a set of policies was drafted by DCP staff to review by the committee. The policies presented were:

- 1) Those who wish to audio/videotape the proceedings should coordinate with the committee chair or meeting coordination staff in advance of the meeting.
- 2) The audience and committee should be informed that audio/videotaping is being undertaken.
- 3) Audio/Videotaping activities must be conducted so as to not disrupt the meeting. An appropriate location will be established for video cameras to be set up. Unless specific permission is granted by the Committee, video operators will not be permitted to rove around the meeting room.
- 4) The committee will ask for an unedited copy of videotapes from meetings for our records and to share with other interested parties.

There was a conversation about which of these policies were mandatory; according to the legal opinion, only #3, regarding disruptive activities, can be a requirement. The other policies would be guidance only. The Committee can request compliance with 1, 2 and 4, but cannot compel anyone to comply.

These policies as written were approved by the committee. They will be added to the committee ground rules.

### *John Nicols Letter Concerning the Legitimacy of the Advisory Committee*

Sarah Cooksey reported that, based upon an inquiry from Mr. John Nichols, the Attorney General responded that the Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee has the legal authority to exist. Copies of this opinion were distributed.

### *Workgroup Updates*

Susan Love reported that the socio/economic workgroup is having a difficult time gathering data but that a contract with the University of Delaware to develop economic and social data will help the group. This information will be available later in the summer. Concerning the timeline, the workgroup is still on track and is working with the data and information they have currently.

Tricia Arndt reported that the natural resource workgroup members had been assigned the task of completing templates. The templates will be reviewed and a finalized draft document should be completed sometime in June.

Bob Scarborough reported that the infrastructure and public safety workgroup had completed templates but that they were general in nature. Detailed information will be added to the templates in the coming weeks.

### *New Business*

### *Committee Timeline*

Susan Love explained that a large workshop for 150 people is being planned for October. The purpose is to receive feedback on proposed adaptation strategies from a larger audience. The Advisory Committee should have the vulnerability assessment approved for release before the workshop.

#### *Important Dates Outlined:*

- June 17<sup>th</sup>: tentative Advisory Committee meeting
- June 24<sup>th</sup>: entire draft document sent to Advisory Committee
- July 28<sup>th</sup>: Committee approval of draft document

During the summer months, the plan is for the workgroups to set goals and begin to develop general adaptation plans.

There was general agreement regarding the timeline.

### *October Workshop*

Sarah Cooksey discussed the October workshop in more detail. The purpose of the meeting is to get a large group together to discuss adaptation options, incorporate new opinions, and develop recommendations. It would be held in a centralized location (Dover). Susan Love added that committee members will be asked to provide a list of individuals who should be invited to the workshop. A committee member asked if the draft document will be released to the public prior to the workshop. It is currently planned to release the vulnerability assessment prior to the workshop, which is why an aggressive timeline for completion of the assessment has been put in place.

Another committee member asked if there will be time for public comment during the workshop. Sarah responded that public outreach will be addressed during the workshop however public comment may be limited due to attendance restrictions.

A few committee members were concerned that if the vulnerability assessment is released to the public prior to the workshop, than the public may want to attend. A recommendation was made that since the workshop will be limited in attendance, the committee may need to hold additional workshops for the public.

Other members stated that the workshop should be a time for expert opinion and that public involvement should be limited until the committee has a finalized document.

It should be noted that throughout this conversation, there was some confusion among committee members regarding the term “workshop” stemming from our different experiences with “workshops” “public Meetings” and “focus groups.”

At the conclusion of this section, Sarah Cooksey noted that all concerns will be considered and that more concrete details about the “workshop” will be discussed at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

#### *Public Outreach*

Due to the concern about public involvement raised by committee members, Sarah Cooksey recommended the establishment of a sub-committee for public relations. John Taylor agreed to chair this ad-hoc committee. Rob McCleary, Michael Kirkpatrick, Rich Collins and Chad Tolman volunteered to be on the committee. The committee will formulate a plan for how and when to solicit public input and “expert” opinions.

The formation of the public outreach ad-hoc committee was approved.

#### *Senate Bill 64*

Frank Piorko, Director of Division of Watershed Stewardship, gave a presentation discussing drainage and flooding challenges in Delaware. The presentation is available on the Advisory committee website.

#### *Public Comment*

Peggy Shultz, League of Women Voters, stated that she was concerned about relying on 100 year floodplain maps when two major impacts of climate change are increasing coastal storms and sea level rise. Since floodplains are changing, she wanted to know why adjustable floodplain maps were not being used. Dave Carter responded that floodplain maps must be based on probable scenarios and that this was a national issue with legal implications due to the uncertainty of future scenarios.

John Nicols asked the committee to post a video of all meetings on the state website because the majority of the public are unable to attend. John was also concerned about the economic consequences of SB64 and asked the committee to perform an economic assessment with cost/benefit analysis. Sarah Cooksey responded that she would look into Mr. Nichols’ requests.

Al Izzarone, a South Bowers resident, stated that he was concerned about the impact increasing tidal levels will have on drainage ditches. Frank Piorko agreed to meet with the resident after the meeting to gather information.

Amanda Fisher, a student at Wesley College, did not see how water runoff and drainage issues were related to sea level rise. She expressed a desire for the committee to hold more public meetings and to incorporate maps in all public documents so that the public is able to visualize the impacts of sea level rise. Sarah Cooksey responded that she would take Ms. Fishers' recommendations into consideration.

### *Adjournment*

After the meeting was adjourned, members of the Committee met in thematic workgroups- Society and Economy, Infrastructure and Public Safety, and Natural Resources.

*Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Sea Level Rise Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.*

### **Attendees:**

Tricia Arndt, DE Coastal Programs  
Dave Carter, DE Coastal Programs  
Richard Collins, Positive Growth Alliance  
Sarah Cooksey, DE Coastal Programs  
Mark Davis, DE Dept. of Agriculture  
Barbara DeHaven, DE Economic Development Office  
Morgan Ellis, DE Energy Office  
Brenna Goggin, DE Nature Society  
Susan Guiteras, U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
Karl Kalbacher, New Castle County  
Sarah Keifer, Kent County Planning  
Michael Kirkpatrick, DE Dept. of Transportation  
Don Knox, Del. Emergency Management Agency  
Victor Lentonoff, Lewis Town Council  
Susan Love, DE Coastal Programs  
Robert McCleary, DE Dept. of Transportation  
Richard Perkins, DE Division of Public Health  
Keith Rudy, Homebuilders Assoc. of DE  
Bob Scarborough, DE Coastal Programs  
Peggy Shultz, DE League of Women Voters  
Chris Sommerfield, University of DE  
Hillary Stevens, University of DE  
Mike Stroeh, U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
John Taylor, DE Chamber of Commerce  
Pam Thornburg, DE Farm Bureau  
Chad Tolman, DE League of Women Voters  
Robin Tyler, DNREC  
Kelly Valencik, DE Coastal Programs  
Mark Wolanski, DE Coastal Programs  
John Nicols, Middletown resident  
Amanda Fisher, Wesley College  
Bill McAvoy, DNREC

Robert Coxe, DNREC  
Kim Cole, DNERR  
Al Izzarone, South Bowers resident  
Karen Bennett, DNREC

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